

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

856 WASHINGTON STREET, BRAINTREE, MA 02184

Parish Office Phone: 781-843-1332 • Fax: 781-848-0976 • Website: www.sfab.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



Pastoral Staff: Rev. Paul Clifford, Pastor
Rev. Donald Delay, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Robert Milling, Senior Priest in Residence
Mrs. Linda Muldoon, Pastoral Associate
Rev. Mr. Joseph MacDonald, Director of Music
Mr. Brian Cote, School Principal, 781-848-0842
Mrs. Diane Hopkins, Religious Education, 781-848-3238
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli, Religious Education, 781-848-3238

Parish Office: Mr. Rick Timmerman, Business Manager
Miss Patty Kinnally, Office Manager

Mass Schedule: Saturday Evening – 4:00 PM
Sunday – 7:00, 9:30 and 11:30 AM
Weekday – Monday thru Friday 7:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday – 2:30 to 3:45 PM

Sacrament of Marriage: A minimum of ten months notice is required. Please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a hall.

Sacrament of Baptism: First and Third Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM.
Please call the Parish Office to register.

Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls: Please notify the Parish Office if anyone is hospitalized or unable to attend Mass because of illness.

Community Meetings: School Hall Alcoholics Anonymous – Friday 8:00 PM

Food Pantry: Thursdays – please call the Parish Office one day in advance.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 31, 2016

4:00PM Estelle "Kitty" Lezynski Memorial

Sunday, January 1, 2017

7:00 AM Guido Buglio Memorial

9:30 AM Richard Leland, III Anniversary

11:30 AM William P. Sweeney, II Memorial

Monday, January 2, 2017

7:00 AM Diane Souza Memorial

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

7:00 AM

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

7:00 AM

Thursday, January 5, 2017

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Assisi

Friday, January 6, 2017

7:00 AM Charles R. Beaulieu Month's Mind

Saturday, January 7, 2017

4:00 PM Edward O'Leary Anniversary

Sunday, January 8, 2017

7:00 AM Michael Nee & Cali Nee Anniversary

9:30 AM Barbara Blushi Memorial

11:30AM Richard Grant Anniversary

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:
Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—61%

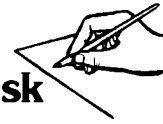
**If you are interested in the Online Giving option
to simplify your weekly contributions,
please contact the parish office.**

Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$14,727.00
Offertory/Loose	\$10,486.00
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,253.75
Total Offertory	\$26,466.75

**PLEASE REMEMBER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH
WHEN PLANNING YOUR ESTATE. Thank you!**

From the Pastor's Desk



IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE/DAY.

It has come to our attention that there were 2 envelopes for the New Year's collections. **This is an error.** Since this Holy day falls on a Sunday this year, there should have been only one envelope. You can use either envelope for New Year's Day and please discard the other one. (How often do you hear this from your pastor!)



Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame

So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

(A modern prayer for the New Year from www.lords-prayer-words.com)



If you worship with us regularly, are here for the 1st time or are a returnee, we are so happy that you are here. If you would like to learn more about our parish family, please do not hesitate to call the parish office at 781-843-1332.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



*From the desk of the
Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Linda Muldoon*

Today we celebrate the Octave Day of Christmas and the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, the one whose “yes” played such an important role in our salvation history. Even though we had the longest possible Advent, it seems that Christmas came and went at a record pace this year.

I’ve been thinking about leftovers—both the ones that Mary kept and reflected on in her heart and the ones in our freezer, the items our children and grandchildren left behind, and especially the memories of “real time” spent with family and friends. Some will disappear, some will be boxed up and sent along, and some will last forever. I can take my leftovers to prayer—especially the ones in “real time,” and for that I am grateful. Once again, God speaks to me not through the “stuff” but through the human interactions. Priceless.

So, as you make your New Year’s resolutions, if you are looking to do something in “real time,” whether one night a month or one morning a month (Panera pick-up or food pantry), please call the parish office. If you have more “real time” available during weekend Mass time, we’d love to chat with you about possibilities there as well. As the angel told Mary, then Joseph, then the shepherds, “Do not be afraid...” Say, “Yes.” You’ll be so glad you did!

Today’s psalm response is a great prayer for the new year and the changes soon to come: “May God bless us in his mercy.” A happy, healthy, and holy 2017 to all!



*From
The clergy and staff of
St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi*

**The parish office will be closed on Monday,
January 2, 2017. Have a safe and happy New Year’s
weekend .**



JANUARY 1, 2017

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Supernatural communication was nothing new for Mary. The angel Gabriel had already appeared and spoken to her when she agreed to bear God's Son. Her husband Joseph also had a kind of divine intervention in the dream where the angel told him to go ahead and marry her. When she was first pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth had been led by the Holy Spirit to know the secret that Mary was "the mother of my Lord" (Lk 1:43). Now, Jesus has just been born and a crew of earthy shepherds appears at her door with a message from heaven: that the Savior has been born. And Mary believed them. She did not doubt their sincerity or the authenticity of their message. She took the words to heart, and meditated upon the meaning of it all.

What might strike us as peculiar in all of this is that God chose to speak to Mary in a variety of ways. This holy and immaculate woman, this Mother of God, did not always receive direct communication from on high. Sometimes, God chose to speak to her through other people. Sometimes, he revealed himself to them in order to reveal himself to her. And God does the same with us.

It's easy to daydream about having our own personal revelation from God, to hear his voice loud and clear, directing, encouraging, and supporting us in our times of need and confusion. But this isn't the standard pattern of God's operation. Mary was tuned in enough to hear God's voice all around her instead of expecting it to always sound the same. We can imitate this same kind of openness by seeking to discover how God may be speaking to us through the voices of others. Reflection from Lpi



Parish Info and events of note

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry...** We are open Thursdays from 10AM-12NN and 2-4PM. If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referrals and limited financial assistance are available for parishioners in need. Please call the parish office for more information.
- **Prayer Shawls...** next meets Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00PM in the St. Francis church hall. If you knit or crochet or would like to learn—in an atmosphere of soft music, prayer and quiet conversation, please give us a try! 
- **Our Bereavement Group** will resume in February (2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 1-2:30PM), and we will use the book, *The New Day Journal*. This book is “a journey from grief to healing for people coping with the loss of a loved one.” Meanwhile, if you have just experienced or are struggling with the loss of a loved one, we have resources, referral information, and lots of tissues. Help and a cup of tea are a phone call away at 781.843.1332. 
- **Visits to the Sick and Homebound...** If you or someone you know cannot attend Mass due to surgery, illness or infirmity, you can request a Communion visit. Our staff and trained home visitors are available and willing to come to you. Please call the parish office for more information.
- **Parish Prayer Line...** To be placed (or to pray) on the parish prayer line, please call the parish office.
- **Military Service...** If someone you know is newly deployed and you would like their info to appear on the board, please call or email the parish office. Thank you.
- **RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.** It begins with a time to ask your questions and discern whether God is calling you to something more. Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Maybe you were baptized but missed the opportunity to receive your first holy communion or be confirmed. Do you hunger, do you thirst for something more? Do you want to learn about the food that endures for eternal life, to taste and see the goodness of the Lord? Maybe you have questions about our faith or your own circumstances. You can reach out to a member of our staff at any time by contacting the parish office or join us for an inquiry session, soon to be scheduled. If the words above do not resonate with you, please pass them along to someone you know who may be interested. God works through us, especially when we pay attention.



From
Mr. Brian Cote
Principal

Happy New Year - A New Year is always filled with so many new resolutions and much promise. On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff at St. Francis of Assisi School, I offer you God's blessings for the New Year – 2017. May every day bring you love, peace and joy.



Thank You – It is with sincere gratitude that I thank you for supporting our school through your continued prayers and the purchasing of our Holiday Calendars during the Christmas season. With your support, we are able to provide our students with the best Catholic education possible.

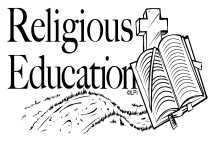
Calling all Alumni – As families gather to celebrate Christmas, St. Francis of Assisi School would like to offer its alumni four great ways to stay connected so that you can receive news about our school, alumni events/news. But, we need your help by updating your contact information by:

- Completing our on-line Alumni Update Form located on our school's website (www.sfab.org/sfabschool);
- Joining us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sfabraintree
- Sending your current contact information (name, address, city, state, zip, telephone, year of graduation) and email address as well as news about what you have been up to alumni@sfab.org; or
- Contacting us at (781)-848-0842.

Help us spread the news to other SFA alumni and parents of alumni and we look forward to reconnecting with you. Thank you for staying in touch.

Enroll Today

St. Francis of Assisi School offers a rolling admissions policy. For more information regarding our admissions procedure, simply visit our school's website (www.sfab.org) or contact us at (781) 848-0842. Are you interested learning more about what SFA has to offer for your child, its curriculum and extracurricular activities? Arrange your personalized visit/tour with our principal by contacting Brian Cote at (781) 848-0842 x12 or emailing bcote@sfab.org. We look forward to possibly serving your family in the spiritual, academic, and social development of your child.



Mrs. Diane Hopkins
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli
Phone 781.848.3238



Word Search

Class schedules for Religious Education:

Sunday, January 1 10:30-11:30 Gr. 1-5

No classes this week.

Sunday, December 25 5:00 – 7:00 Gr. 10

No Classes this week.

NEXT CLASS: January 8.

We will be attending the 6:00 Mass as part of class.

Monday, January 2, 2017 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

No classes this week.

Tuesday, January 3, 2017 3:50-4:50 Gr. 1-5

No classes this week.

Tuesday, January 3, 2017 6:30- 7:45 Gr. 6-8

No classes this week.

Thursday, January 5, 2017 6:00-7:30 Gr. 9

Classes meet in St. Clare church hall.

Happy New Year from the Confirmation Program! The desire to improve and to grow is hardwired by God into our nature. Especially this time of year, the world offers plenty of “self improvement” techniques to counteract the ugliness that seeps in through our human frailties. Just Google “self-help” to see tens of thousands of options. Although some are actually helpful, none of them can provide *the power* one needs to create and sustain lasting personal change. Will power is short lived...it will not transform. Only God can do that. We ask you to pray for each other and especially for our young people that we may all experience true transformation during this year as we move from “self help” to God’s help. Time is passing. Let’s make it meaningful.

Happiness really is....witnessing the movement of the Holy Spirit among our young people!

Important Note / Retreat: All Confirmation Candidates (grade 10) have been assigned a date of either **Saturday, January 14th or January 21st to attend a retreat being held at St. Francis of Assisi.** Please review the information received regarding the upcoming retreat. Parents, kindly return your *assignment* to our office at St. Francis of Assisi as soon as possible.

“Do not walk through time without leaving worthy evidence of your journey.” Saint Pope John Paul II

May God bless us in His mercy.

Stay Close and God Bless, Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli

Circle these words from today’s Gospel in the puzzle:

MARY	SHEPHERDS	LISTENED
JOSEPH	JESUS	WONDERFUL
BABY	ANGEL	NAMED

B	N	J	D	N	B	M	A	W	G	C
F	A	N	U	E	O	R	I	O	K	T
S	M	Y	L	I	S	T	E	N	E	D
L	E	H	A	M	H	F	J	D	V	O
P	D	A	N	G	E	L	P	E	S	F
I	L	R	B	V	P	Y	A	R	U	C
J	O	S	E	P	H	A	G	F	N	B
D	H	Y	W	T	E	K	W	U	J	M
W	G	K	O	T	R	C	S	L	H	A
E	I	M	R	C	D	U	P	E	D	R
A	J	E	S	U	S	L	B	A	B	Y

Sharing the Gospel

Mothers think their babies are pretty special, and Mary was no different. She probably kissed his nose, snuggled his little cheeks, and sang songs to him. But a lot of people thought her baby was special. Mary had more than just curious relatives showing up to visit. Angels praised God, and shepherds came running to see the baby, too. When it was time to name him Jesus, Mary knew he was the Savior.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for letting everyone know that Jesus was more than a special baby. He was the Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Mary giving baby Jesus snuggles.

Mission for the Week

Ask your parents what they enjoyed about you as a little baby. You might also want to look at some baby pictures together.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

January 1 ~ The Octave Day of Christmas; Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God
What a beautiful blessing to begin the new year: "May the Lord bless and keep you... let His face to shine upon you..." And then, the Gospel, the shepherds were among the first evangelizers – sharing the Good News. "... they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds." We have that SAME message to make known. Here's a good New Year's resolution suggestion: pray about and practice how you will make known the message of Jesus, in your circle.



Your Christmas Offering

Thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas collection for our priests. If you did not have the opportunity to give but you'd like to make a gift, please visit clergytrust.org or pick up an envelope in the back of the Church. To learn more about the Trust and stay up to date on what's going on with our priests, find the Trust on Facebook by searching "@ClergyTrust." Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

Prayer Service Celebrating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

A prayer service to celebrate the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King will be held on January 16, 2017 at 9:00 am at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, 517 Blue Hill Avenue, Grove Hall. Featured guest speaker is Professor Randall Kennedy, Harvard Law School. Tickets are \$15.00 and MUST be purchased in advance. Space is very limited. For tickets, please call Lorraine Smith 857-249-7773 or Ruth Andrews, 617-610-5579.

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Tuesday our Grand Annual Collection was \$53,600 from 265 contributors (13% of Appeals sent). Thank you to all who have contributed. If you did not receive an Appeal letter or have misplaced your copy, please call the parish office at 781-843-1332 and we'll be happy to send you a new one.



Upcoming Events



"The Catholic Daughters of the America's will be having a special presentation at their January meeting. Joan Vercollone Barry will speak on Human Sex Trafficking: What is it? How does it work? Where does it exist? This is a free lecture and will be presented on Saturday, January 21st at 10:00AM at **St. Clare** in the lower church hall. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served."

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom." As we await the coming of the Lord, let us rejoice and encourage our marriages to bloom by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Jan 20-22, 2017 in Duxbury, MA and Mar 17-19, 2017 in South Kingstown, RI. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at www.WWMEMA.org.



When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. - Lk 2:21

Readings for the Week of January 1, 2017

- Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/
Lk 2:16-21
- Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98/Jn 1:19-28
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98/Jn 1:29-34
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98/Jn 1:35-42
- Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100/Jn 1:43-51
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147/Mk 1:7-11 or
Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149/Jn 2:1-11
- Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/
Mt 2:1-12



Pray for Vocations